

WATER ALLOCATION PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT
WATER RIGHTS SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING

MINUTES OF MEETING

4/2/03

Members Present:

John Garry
Dale Thompson
Jon Schock
John Spirito
Brian Bishop
Al Bettencourt

Guests

Renee Crevier
Jeremy Pykosz

Members Absent:

Kendra Beaver
Fred Cosby
Christopher D'Ovidio
Jennifer Henman
Mary Ellen McCabe
Rebecca Partington
Peter Pascucci
Ken Payne
Paul Ryan
GregorySchultz
KatherineWallace
Wendy Waller

WRB Staff Present

Connie McGreavy

I. CALL TO ORDER:

With a quorum present, **Mr.** Dale Thompson called the meeting to order at 2:10 PM.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

On a motion by **Mr.** Jon Schock, seconded by **Mr.** John Garry the minutes of the 3/11/03 meeting were approved.

III. ITEMS FOR ACTION:

IV. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION:

A. Vision of Tasks of Committee over next Few Months, and Identification of Specific Tasks

Dale Thompson lead a discussion about when the final deadlines where to be. The Final Deadline was then set for 12/18/03. For the August/September time frame, policy rights and the regulatory structure will be needed. It was noted that more specific questions needed to be asked; and the big issues have to be narrowed down. John Garry then noted that recently the number of committee members present at the meeting seemed to be dwindling.

B. Further Discussion on Regulatory Structure

It was discussed by Dale Thompson that a regulatory structure for drought is needed, as well as more data is needed. The following items were then discussed:

- Brian Bishop brought up that there is no baseline for management, he discussed that there is no “cost signal” and discussed demand management, establishing the worth of water rights, and compensation for altered water flow to farmers, creating a market system.
- Three issues where then targeted, Who has Regulatory Authority?, Who has Riparian Rights?, and finally Recommendations: it was then discussed how to go about with these steps, the first two have been defined, the third needs more work.
- Dale Thompson and John Garry then mentioned that the “code” could be used for guidance for the drought situation. The agricultural rights should be looked into as well as the history of the statutes. It was discussed that the DAG could possible help with that. As well, there could be more than one advocacy of the statute.
- The topic of Farmer’s cooperation and volunteering of information for data collection (or registration) was discussed. Al Bettencourt made the point that farmers want to be left alone, and want privacy. The comparative accuracy was then discussed between real data collected from farmers and water use coefficients that are calculated. A sub committee was then identified to work on this issue.
- The augmentation of supplies was then discussed (the problems with it), as well as the storage of excess water, new supplies and groundwater.
- Connie McGreavy then brought up the problem with “enforceable policies”, and the difference and confusion between plans and regulation.

V. OTHER BUSINESS:

The next meeting was set for Wednesday, May 7th, @ 2:00 P.M.

VI. ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting adjourned at 3:50 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Renee Crevier
Intern, Dept. of the Attorney General

**Note: For more information on Water Allocation, visit: <http://www.seagrant.gso.uri.edu/scc/wrb/index.html>.*

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